

MAURICE CARLOS RUFFIN

Associate Professor, Creative Writing: Fiction
English Department, Louisiana State University
212S Allen Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70806

PUBLICATIONS

Novels

The American Daughters, One World/Penguin Random House, February 27, 2024.
(New York) National Bestseller, American Booksellers Association Extended
Hardcover List, March 6, 2024. (Peer reviewed by Jamila Minnicks)
Forthcoming: Paperback March 4, 2025 (New York)

We Cast a Shadow, One World/Penguin Random House, January 29, 2019.
(New York) (Peer reviewed by Mat Johnson)
Paperback February 4, 2020. (New York)

Finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction.

Finalist for the Dayton Literary Peace Prize.

Finalist for the PEN America Open Book Prize.

Longlisted for the 2021 DUBLIN Literary Award.

Longlisted for the Center for Fiction Prize.

Longlisted for Aspen Words Literary Prize.

Longlisted for Crooks Corner Book Prize.

Longlisted for VCU Cabell First Novelist Award.

Nominated for the Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence.

Short Story Collection

The Ones Who Don't Say They Love You: Stories, One World/Penguin Random House,
August 17, 2021. (New York)
Paperback June 21, 2022. (New York)

2023 One Book One New Orleans selection

2023 National Book Festival selection

Finalist for the Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence.

Longlisted for The Story Prize.

“Cocoon” (collection story) selected for *Best Small Fictions 2022*.

“Bigsby” (collection story) selected for W.W. Norton’s *Flash Fiction America Anthology*.

Works in Progress

Garden of Redemption (novel; under contract w/ One World/Penguin Random House)
Untitled Book No. 5

Previously Published (publications are short stories unless otherwise noted)

- “Read Your Way Through New Orleans,” (article), *New York Times*, June 5, 2024
- “Sitting in Silence,” (writing craft newsletter and podcast), *Substack*, January 2022 to present
- “Election”, (reprint) *What’s Next? Short Fiction in a Time of Change*, February 2023
Ed. Sharyn Skeeter. Brattleborough, Vermont: Green Writers Press.
- “Big Freedria: Empress of Joy, Queen of Peace,” (non-fiction), *The Bitter Southerner Magazine*, April 4, 2023
- “November 17, 1994, 10:17 a.m. Kerlerec Street,” (speculative nonfiction), *Bureau Dispatch*, October 2022
- “Ghetto University,” (podcast production), *Ursa Story Company*, August 2022
- “Springtime Everywhere Else,” (poetry), *Diode Poetry Journal*, August 2022
- “Beat,” *Crashtest*, January 2022
- “Foreword,” *Commanders of the Dining Room/University of Georgia Press*, October 15, 2021. (Georgia)
- “Why We New Orleanians Keep Coming Back After Every Storm,” (solicited op-ed) *Time Magazine*, September 2, 2021
- “Maurice Carlos Ruffin on Understanding Voice in Fiction,” (non-fiction), *Literary Hub*, August 13, 2021
- “‘Ramadan Ramsey’ Is a Story About Hope in Even the Harshes of Circumstances,” (book review), *New York Times*, August 10, 2021
- “Caesara Pittman, or a Negress of God,” *Electric Literature*, July 26, 2021
- “Zimmerman,” *Northwest Review*, July 2021
- “The Sparer,” *Northwest Review*, July 2021
- “Spinning,” (poem), *Slant: A Journal of Poetry*, May 2021
- “Introduction.” (guest editor), *West Branch Magazine*, May 2021
- “Anthony Johnson,” *Four Hundred Souls: A Community History African America 1619-2019*, February 2, 2021
- “Fast Hands, Fast Feet,” (reprint), *Short Story Advent Calendar*, Eds. Michael Hingston and Natalie Olsen. Alberta, Canada: Hingston & Olsen. Day Five.
- “The Anchor Song,” (reprint), *Runaway Anthology*, August 2020 Ed. Julie Smith. New Orleans: Akashic Books. 293-309. 2016.
- “Our City of Perpetual Disaster?” (solicited op-ed), *Antenna*, June 8, 2020
- “Aim, Attack, and Destroy the Situation,” (solicited op-ed), *Frankfurter Allgemeine*, June 7, 2020
- “With Love – Ten Letters of Comfort” (non-fiction), *Read My World*, May 13, 2020
- “Don’t Blame New Orleans, and Don’t Forget It,” (solicited op-ed), *New York Times*, April 8, 2020
- “Family Matters: Estrangements and Improvisations,” (book reviews) *Virginia Quarterly Review*, winter 2019
- “The Great American Press Release,” (non-fiction) *Oxford American*, Sept. 3, 2019
- “Patriotism,” (non-fiction) *Literary Hub*, July 3, 2019
- “Our Kind of Place,” (non-fiction) *Garden & Gun*, June/July 2019
- “Trenton Doyle Hancock’s Ecstatic Devotion to Resistance,” (non-fiction) *Oxford American*, March 4, 2019

- “Dear South,” (non-fiction) *Auburn Avenue*, spring/summer 2019
- “Killing Ourselves Softly: Complicity in Modern America,” (book reviews) *Virginia Quarterly Review*, winter 2018
- “Returning the Gaze: Dismantling Patriarchal Narratives of Women’s Lives,” (book reviews) *Virginia Quarterly Review*, fall 2018
- “Personal Terrors: Fear and balkanization in tribal America,” (book reviews) *Virginia Quarterly Review*, summer 2018
- “Gentrification of Freret Street and New Orleans,” (non-fiction) *Southern Foodways Alliance – Gravy Quarterly*, August 22, 2018
- “Postcards from America—Louisiana,” (non-fiction) *Pacific Standard*, March 16, 2018
- “Kings of the Confederate Road,” (with Tad Bartlett and L. Kasimu Harris) (non-fiction) *The Bitter Southerner Magazine*, November 17, 2017
- “What Katrina taught me: A hurricane's wounds can be treated but never healed,” (solicited op-ed) *Los Angeles Times*, September 3, 2017
- “Beg Borrow Steal,” (reprint) *Mojo Rising Vol. 2: Contemporary Writers*, Ed. Joseph B. Atkins, summer 2017
- “You Can Run,” *The Arkansas International*, spring 2017, Issue 2
- “Talking in New Orleans in the Age of Trump,” (non-fiction) *Literary Hub*, November 2016
- “The Effects of White Supremacy are Non-Transferable” (non-fiction) *Literary Hub*, November 2016
- “The Ones Who Don’t Say They Love You,” (reprint), *Monday Nights: Commemorative Creative Writing Workshop 25th Anniversary Fiction Anthology*, Eds. Fredrick Barton and Joanna Leake. New Orleans. UNO Press.
- “Fine Dining,” (non-fiction) *Virginia Quarterly Review*, October 3, 2016
- “Displacement in New Orleans,” (non-fiction) *ARCADE Magazine*, No. 34.2, September 21, 2016
- “Stanislavski in the Ghetto,” (non-fiction) *AGNI Magazine* blog, August 1, 2016
- “Children of New Orleans,” *AGNI Magazine*, No. 83., June 2016
- “A Brief Visit to San Dominick,” *Situate Magazine*, No. 1., May 10, 2016
- “Beg Borrow Steal,” *Kenyon Review: KR Online*, summer 2015.
- “The Boy Who Would Be Oloye,” *The Massachusetts Review*, Vol. 56 No. 1. (Pushcart Prize nominee.), December 2015.
- “Ms. Ann’s Garden,” *New Delta Review*, Issue 5.2., May 2015
- “Jonestown,” *Green Mountain Review*, Vol. 28 No. 2. February 2016
- “Fast Hands Fast Feet,” *The Pinch*, No. 35.2, September 13, 2015
- “The Last Mark of Boyhood,” (non-fiction) *Scars: An Anthology*, Ed. Erin Wood. Little Rock: Et Alia Press, 2015. 199-201. Print.
- “Pie Man,” (reprint), *New Orleans Noir*, Ed. Julie Smith. New Orleans: Akashic Books. 293-309. 2016.
- “The Ones Who Don’t Say They Love You,” *Iowa Review*, Volume 44, Issue 3 — Winter 2014/15. (**Winner of 2014 Iowa Review Awards Fiction Contest.**)
- “Elevation Night” (excerpt of novel in progress), *Callaloo Journal*, Vol. 37 Issue 5. (**Winner of the 2014 William Faulkner Society Faulkner Wisdom Novel in Progress award.**)

“A History of Motion” (non-fiction), *Cicada Magazine*, Vol. 17 No. 3., February 2014
“One Man Reflects on Ray Rice” (non-fiction), *So to Speak Journal*, summer 2014.
“The Anchor Song,” *So to Speak Journal*, Vol. 23 Issue 2. (**Winner of the 2014 So to Speak Fiction Prize.**)
“Heathen,” *The Knicknackery*, Issue Two. (Pushcart Prize nominee.), summer 2014
“Motion Picture Making,” *Writing Tomorrow*, Vol. 2 No. 5, June 2014
“Catch What You Can,” *Redivider Journal*, Vol. 11 Issue 2, May 2014
“Heroes and Villains,” *94 Creations*, Issue 5, summer 2014
“The Beginning of This Road” (non-fiction), *Unfathomable City, a New Orleans atlas*.
Eds. Rebecca Solnit and Rebecca Snedecker. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2013. 133-139. Print.
“Pie Man,” *South Carolina Review*, Vol. 45 Issue 1, fall 2012
“Mr. Face,” *Regarding Arts & Letters*, Issue 36.1, April 2012
“Mercury Forges,” *Apalachee Review*, Issue 62, spring 2012
“Cheating the Muse” (non-fiction), *Apalachee Review*, Issue 62, spring 2012
“And Then I Was Clean,” *Ellipsis*, Issue XXXVIII, spring 2012

AWARDS

2024 South Arts State Fellowship
2023 Louisiana Writers Award
2023 Black Rock Senegal Residency (1-Month)
2019, 2022 University of New Orleans Library Author Award
2014 Iowa Review Fiction Award winner
2014 William Faulkner-William Wisdom Award for Novel-in-Progress
2014 So to Speak: A Feminist Journal of Language and Art Fiction Prize
2013 Joanna Leake Prize for Fiction Thesis (University of New Orleans)
2011 Ernest Svenson Fiction Award (University of New Orleans)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Faculty, Sewanee Writers Conference, 2022, 2023, 2024
Faculty, Lighthouse Writers Workshop, 2024
Faculty, Bread Loaf Writers Conference, 2022
Faculty, Longleaf Writers Conference, 2022
Faculty, Maine Media, 2019, 2022
Grisham Writer-in-Residence, University of Mississippi, August 2020-June 2021,
Creative Writing
Associate Professor, Louisiana State University, Summer 2019-Present, Creative Writing
Recipient of Louisiana Board of Regents 2022-2023 ATLAS Grant
Faculty, Randolph College, Summer 2019-Present, Low-Res MFA Creative Writing

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS:

Presenter

1. Keynote Address, VONA Voices (June 24, 2024)
2. Presenter, University of Oregon (May 23, 2024)
3. Presenter, The Porch (Nashville) (April 18, 2024)
4. Presenter, Western Carolina University Literary Festival (March 3, 2024)
5. Presenter, New Orleans Book Festival, “The American Daughters” (February 16, 2024)
6. Commencement Speaker, University of New Orleans, Fall Graduation (December 8, 2023)
7. Presenter, SouthWord Literary Festival, “Place as a Character” (April 14, 2023)
8. Presenter, Association of Writers and Writing Programs, “Glitterati Reading” (March 11, 2023)
9. Presenter, One Book One New Orleans Kick-Off Event, New Orleans, LA (January 26, 2023)
10. Presenter, Good Thunder Reading Series, Mankato State University-Minnesota (December 1, 2022)
11. Presenter, Read My World Conference, Amsterdam, Holland. (August 28, 2022 – September 4, 2022)
12. Presenter, Jacksonville State University, “Write, Southerners” (February 23, 2022)
13. Presenter, Ren Hen Press Anniversary Benefit (October 25, 2020)
14. Presenter, Susquehanna University Seavey Reading Series (September 30, 2020)
15. Keynote Speaker, Tulane Symposium: The Literary History of New Orleans, “Uncomfortable Silences within the Citadel: That About Which We Prefer Not to Speak.” (January 25, 2020)

16. **We Cast a Shadow Book Tour** (*Ongoing*; past dates: New Orleans; University of Kentucky; Houston, TX; Jackson, MS; Oxford, MS; Nashville, TN; Pass Christian, MS; Memphis, TN; Seaside, FL; Boston, MA; Portland, OR; Little Rock, AR and interviews with national organizations such as the LA Times, Paris Review, and NPR)

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

Grand Canyon University
Master of Science (Psychology, December 2019)

University of New Orleans
Master of Fine Arts *with distinction* (Creative Writing, May 2013)

Honors and Activities:

Recipient, 2013 Joanna Leake Prize for Fiction Thesis (short story collection – *It's Good to See You're Awake*)
Recipient, 2011 Ernest Svenson Fiction Award (short story – “The Pie Man”)
Staff, Bayou Literary Magazine

Loyola University School of Law, New Orleans, Louisiana
Juris Doctor, May 2003
Common Law Division (Civil Law Certificate)

Honors and Activities:

Member, Loyola Law Review, Editing of Legal Citations in Multiple Editions
Class Speaker, Class of 2003
Teaching Assistant, Legal Research and Writing Instructor for First Year Students
Research Assistant, Professor Mitchell F. Crusto
Recipient, Full Tuition Scholarship, 2000-2003
Treasurer, Black Law Students Association

University of New Orleans
Bachelor of Arts in English (Minor in Sociology), May 2000

Honors and Activities:

Recipient, Outstanding Service to the College of Liberal Arts Award, 2000
Honoree, Dean's List (Multiple Appearances)
Student Ambassador
Associate Editor, Driftwood Newspaper, Entertainment Section